

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00

EB-11 IGA-02 AGR-20 COME-00 DRC-01 /203 W

----- 011225

R 030430Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN US PK MASS

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SURENDRA PAL SINGH TOLD THE RAJYA SABHA (UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT) NOVEMBER 30 THAT THE U.S. APPEARED TO HAVE CHANGED ITS POLICY TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT AND THAT INDO-US RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING. HE WELCOMED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPORTED COMMENTS ON THE INDO-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AND THE FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY IN FAVOR OF PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. INDO-US RELATIONS: RESPONDING TO A WRITTEN QUESTION, SURENDRA PAL SINGH SAID THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF A CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT SINCE 1971. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 11 SHOWED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION. PRESSED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFICS ON IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS, HE CITED THE LESSENING OF

PUBLIC CRITICISM OF EACH OTHER, TALKS AT VARIOUS LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THE PL480 RUPEE NEGOTIATIONS. THE US REALIZED THE STATUS OF INDIA HAD CHANGED. SURENDRA PAL SINGH "WELCOMED" REPORTS CARRIED IN THE DELHI PAPERS NOVEMBER 30 THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID AT AMBASSADOR KAUL'S DINNER FOR SENATOR FULBRIGHT NOVEMBER 28 THAT "WE WOULD NOT MIND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION..." HE ADMITTED THAT PROBLEMS STILL EXISTED BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY PL480 RUPEES AND DEBT RESCHEDULING.

2. MILITARY SUPPLY: EARLIER, SURENDRA PAL SINGH WELCOMED THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY AND THAT BHUTTO'S VISIT TO THE US HAD NOT LED TO ANY SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN. INDIA HAD HAKEN UP WITH THE US THE QUESTION OF THE SIX FLOOD RELIEF HELICOPTERS PAKISTAN WAS ALLOWED TO KEEP, HE SAID, INDIA DISAGREED WITH THE US CONTENTION THAT THEY WERE NOT LETHAL. SURENDRA PAL SINGH CONCEDED THAT THIRD COUNTRIES HAD TRANSFERRED SOME ARMS TO PAKISTAN IN 1971 BUT EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA FELT IT HAD BEEN RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THIRD COUNTRIES NOT TO TRANSFER ARMS TO PAKISTAN SINCE. IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD TOLD THE GOI THAT THE ARMS IT WAS BUYING WERE ONLY FOR DOMESTIC USE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE14037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731249/aaaabkaj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <11-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-US RELATIONS: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS SUMMARY: MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SURENDRA PAL SINGH
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005